

Remarks

Claims 1-21 remain in this application, and all claims have been currently amended.

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph for lack of antecedent basis in the claims. Accordingly, claims 1, 7, and 12 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Claim 18 did not require an amendment for the antecedent basis because its parent claim has been amended.

Additional amendments to all claims have been made to provide for further clarification.

The Examiner has stated in the Office action to which this amendment responds that claims 1-6, 11, and 12-17 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Since all claims have been so amended, these claims should now be in allowable condition.

The Examiner has stated that claims 7-10 and 18-20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 7, 12 and 18 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Also, claims 7-10 are all dependent on claim 1, which the Examiner said should be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Also, claims 18-21 are all directly or indirectly dependent

on claim 12, which the examiner stated would be allowable if rewritten to overcome rejections under 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, claims 7-10 and claims 18-21 should now be in condition for allowance.

The art made of record not relied upon has been considered, and is not deemed to affect the status of the application in view of the prior art or ready replied upon.

Also enclosed is a Search Report from the Patent Office of the United Kingdom. This report cites two references which were categorized as technical background. These two references (EP 0884876 A1 and US 5710770 A) have been reviewed and are not deemed to affect the status of the application in view of the art already relied upon. A copy of these references is enclosed.

The fee, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.17, for the extension of time may be charged to account number 09-0468. See attached form.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case for all standing claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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